

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) today voted with an overwhelming majority of his colleagues to continue funding the federal government into March. In addition to funding general government programs, the bill includes \$60.54 million for many Central Coast projects.

"We've had a lot of trouble this year agreeing on funding bills, primarily because offshore drilling became such a big sticking point," said Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel). "This legislation not only keeps the federal government open until we can reach an agreement with the new president next year, it also makes some important investments in defense, veterans affairs and Homeland Security."

The bill includes \$37.2 million for projects located at the **Naval Postgraduate School**:

- \$18 million in continuing grants to fund the NPS homeland security Master's degree program, the only such program in the United States.
- \$9.99 million to build a Graduate School of Business and Public Policy at NPS. These funds would help accommodate an increase in students that has strained current facilities.
- \$5.6 million to continue funding NPS's Center for Defense Technology and Education for the Military Services, or CDTEMS. These funds will to toward education and research programs at the school including the Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies and the Total Force Education Initiative.
- \$2 million to continue fund the California Homeland Security Consortium, a project spearheaded by NPS and made up of more than 20 academic and government organizations and private sector firms on the Central Coast.
- \$1.6 million to fund an NPS program allowing enrollment of Special Operations officers returned from deployments to use their experience toward research, development and field experiments.

"NPS has established itself as a world-class educational institution, bringing together officers from the United States and many of our allies around the world," Rep. Farr said. "These funds will help keep the school's programs on the cutting edge and further modernize our nation's military."

The bill, which included new funding levels for the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs

and Homeland Security, provides money for three additional local initiatives:

- \$15 million for a new classroom at the **Defense Language Institute**.
- \$3.95 million to build the Modified Record Fire Range at **Fort Hunter Liggett**. This range is one of Ft. Hunter-Liggett's most critical training facility requirements.
- \$1.6 million for the Translation and Interpretation Skills program at the **Monterey Institute for International Studies**. MIIS offers the only Master's degree program in translation and interpretation in the United States. Funds will continue to develop and implement a program to provide training and certificate programs in translation and interpretation in coordination with national security objectives.
- \$1.2 million for the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the **Monterey Institute for International Studies**.
- \$800,000 to fund an enhancement program for the **Tactical RPG Airbag Protection System**, known as TRAPS. The system uses commercial airbag and low-cost radar technology to defeat RPG warhead attacks. These funds will allow development of variants for light, medium and heavy vehicles.
- \$800,000 for the Defense Manpower Data Center.

"This legislation funds DOD, DHS and VA through fiscal year 2009, but Congress will have to complete debate next year on funding for the rest of the government," Rep. Farr said. "We will have more opportunities to invest in vital programs for the region in a variety of social service areas."

The House passed the bill, known as a continuing resolution, by a vote of 370-58 with one voting present. The bill is expected to be taken up by the Senate very soon and the president is expected to sign this bill.

###